

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00886 111217Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 MC-02 PM-07 DODE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 L-03 XMB-07

DRC-01 /062 W

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R 111020Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4948

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 0886

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: SALE OF HERCULES CARGO PLANE TO GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 0769

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME OCTOBER 10, PRESIDENT BONGO RAISED THE MATTER OF THE DELIVERY DATE ON THE "C-130" GABON HAS ORDERED.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT BONGO (IN A LETTER TO ME OF WHICH AF/C HAS COPY) STATED THAT LOCKHEED TOLD HIM IN US GABON COULD HAVE PLANE IN 1974 IF STATE DEPARTMENT REQUESTED DOD TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOG ONE OF PLANES SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY TO DOD IN 1974. OTHERWISE LOCKHEED CONTRACT SIGNED WITH GABONESE CALLS FOR DELIVERY OF PLANE IN 1975. BONGO ALSO TOLD ME HE HAD RAISED MATTER WITH SECRETARY ROGERS SUGGESTING THAT THE 1975 PLANE COULD THEN BE GIVEN TO DOD TO SUBSTITUTE FOR 1974 PLANE. BONGO SAID SECRETARY SYMPATHETIC AND ASSURED HIM MATTER WOULD BE PURSUED.

3. I EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT BONGO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MILITARY VERSION (C-130) AND CIVILIAN VERSION (L-100-30) OF HERCULES PLANE AND FACT GOG HAD SIGNED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00886 111217Z

CONTRACT FOR L-100. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EX-IM

COULD NOT FINANCE ANY SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
BONGO THEN ASKED IF LOCKHEED COULD NOT MAKE ONE
L-100-30 IN 1974 FOR GOG AND SUBSTITUTE A C-130 IN
1975 FOR DOD. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW IF THIS WAS
TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: CAN DEPARTMENT FIND OUT IF
THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY OF GOG OBTAINING THE L-100-30
IT HAS CONTRACTED FOR IN 1974 INSTEAD OF 1975.
PERHAPS LOCKHEED IS IN PROCESS PRODUCING A L-100-30
FOR SOME OTHER CLIENT WHO WILL DROP OUT FOR ONE REASON
OR ANOTHER. IT IS CLEAR THAT BONGO IS VERY ANXIOUS
TO OBTAIN PLANE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LIBREV00886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731039/aaaabcgd.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LIBREVILLE 0769
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by chappeld>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALE OF HERCULES CARGO PLANE TO GABON
TAGS: BEXP, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005